(b) whether Government have fined them Rs. 123 crores; and

(c) whether it would not be best to delicense these banks in view of their grave economic offences particularly in view of the unequal competition between Indian banks and foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (*a*) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that several foreign banks operating in India indulged in violations of RBI's guidelines on ready forward transactions/ PMS operations.

(**d**) RBI have imposed a penalty aggregating to Rs. 123.15 crores on 9 foreign banks.

(c) The decision on suspension of licences is to be taken by RBI who have indicated that in view of action already taken, they are not in favour of taking the extreme step of suspending or cancelling their licences. Government agrees with the RBI's view.

Transportation of Narcotics

301. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen press reports, which appeared in 'The Pioneer' dated 17th November, 1994 of bogus firms being launched which have used containers, all in the booming name of liberalisation and export drive, to transport huge quantities of heroin, hashish and mandrax; and

(b) if so, what is being done to curb this dangerous trade in narcotics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE ... MINISTRY OF FINANCE ... CHANDRASHEKARA ... (a) and (b) The said ... peared in the Indian Express dated 17-11-94 and not in the 'Pioneer' dated 17-11-94. The news item is an exaggerated surmise based on a case of detection of drug smuggling by NCB in Madras. The NCB and all other enforcement agencies are being kept alert to narcotics smuggling through ingeneous way.

उत्पाद शुल्क में रियायतें

902 **प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने यह सुनिश्चित किया है कि केन्द्रीय बजट 1994-95 में उत्पाद शुल्क में दी गयी रियायत का लाभ उपभोक्ताओं को प्राप्त हो ; और

(ख) सरकार उन निर्माताओं के खिलाफ जिन्होंने इस रियायत का लाभ उपभोक्ताओं को नहीं दिया है, क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कोई तंत्र नहीं है कि उत्पाद शुल्क में दी गयी छूट का लाभ वास्तव में उपभोक्ताओं को दिया गया है अथवा नहीं ।

(ख) जिन मामलों में मूल्य नियंत्रण नहीं है उनमें उत्पाद शुल्क में की गयी कमी की सीमा तक मूल्य में कमी लाने के लिए कोई विधिक तंत्र नहीं है ।

Strong room of SBI, Cuttack

903. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an urn containing ashes of Mahatma Gandhi has been found kept in the strong room of the State Bank in Cuttack;

(b) if so, how did this urn reach there and what are the reasons for its remaining there during the last 46 years; and

(c) in what manner the said ashes are now proposed to be dispersed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that a box of the size 18"X18"X20", reported to be containing the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi, was deposited with it on 29-11-1950 by the then Secretary to Chief Minister, Government of Orissa and since then has been lying with its Cuttack Branch.

(c) State Bank of India are in touch with the Government authorities at the State level to decide on the further course of action in this regard.

Reduction in import duty

904. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are reducing import duties of such of the products of which there is rise in the prices in the country;

(b) if so, the number of items whose prices increased in the country which import duty has been reduced and imported in the country giving details thereof item-wise;

(c) the details of the items whose prices have increased in 1994 over the prices prevailing in 1993; and

(d) whether the reduction in the import duty is the only solution to check the rise in prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) : (a) In view of the ensuing budget, it is not possible to indicate the views of the Government in this matter.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Manufactured products registered an annual increase of 9.49% based on the Whole Sale Price Index for the week ending 19-11-94 showing generally the increase in prices for such products.

(d) The prices of commodities depend on several factors such as market forces, demand and supply position, etc.

Non-performing assets of public Sector Banks

905. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pelased to state :

(a) the amount of and percentage of non-performing assets of each Public Sector Bank, each year from 1991 to 1994;

(b) what is the position of all these banks in respect of realisation of overdue amounts and to what progress in percentage has been made by each bank to expedite the realisation from 1991 to 1994: and

(c) the number of bank employees who have been found to be involved in faulty loans and whether any action has been taken against them during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per available information, the non-performing assets of nationalised banks for the year ended 31st March, 1993 and 31st March, 1994 were Rs. 23,373.46 crores (22.6% to total) and Rs. 25,599.17 crores (24.4% to the total) respectively. RBI urther stated that the increases in quantum of the non-performing assests for the year ended 31-3-94 over the previous year i mainly on account of classificatios